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EXCALIBUR



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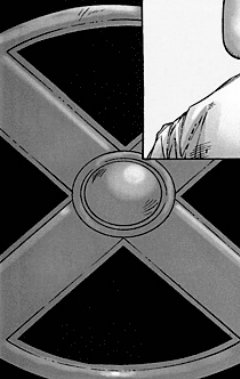


MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER.

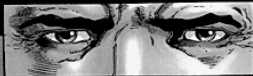
I AM A MUTANT.



AND ONCE
UPON A TIME, I
HAD A DREAM...



...OF A
WORLD
WHERE ALL
EARTH'S
CHILDREN,
BOTH
MUTANT
AND
BASELINE
HUMAN,
MIGHT LIVE
TOGETHER
IN PEACE.



Harper
PROUDLY
presents the
FIRST issue of
EXCALIBUR
By Chris
Caramont
and
Aaron
Lopresti

PAINT IT BLACK!

THIS ISN'T IT.



THIS IS TODAY'S
REALITY.



Greg Adams, Inker; Liquori Colors; Tom Orzechowski, Letterer
Stephanie Moore & Cory Sedlmeyer, Assistant Editors; Mike Marks, Editor; Joe Quesada, Editor in Chief; Dan Buckley, Publisher

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THE ISLAND NATION OF GENOSHA, JUST OFF THE EAST COAST OF AFRICA.



IT HAD BECOME THE SELF-PROCLAIMED MUTANT HOMELAND, PRESENTING ITSELF TO THE WORLD AS A SANCTUARY AND A PLACE OF HOPE.





BUT TOO MANY--
THOSE WHO
FEAR
MUTANTS AS
HUMANITY'S
GENETIC
RIVAL FOR
DOMINION
OVER THE
GLOBE--

--SAW
GENOSHA
AS A
THREAT.

THAT FEAR
HAD YEARS AGO
LED TO THE
CREATION OF
SENTINELS--

-- ROBOTS WHOSE
TECHNOLOGICAL
CAPABILITIES WOULD
MATCH OR EXCEED
THOSE POWERS
MUTANTS POSSESS
NATURALLY.

AND ONE
MORNING, A
MADWOMAN
NAMED
CASSANDRA
NOVA...



...PUT THEM TO USE.



THE MEGA-SENTINELS REACH ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE ISLAND, BUT THE BULK OF GENOSHA'S POPULATION LIVED HERE, IN AND AROUND THE CAPITAL HAMMER BAY.

IN A MATTER OF HOURS, THEY WERE ANNIHILATED.

AND THEIR COUNTRY, ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED AND PROSPEROUS ON EARTH, UTTERLY RUINED.

ALMOST AS CONTEMPTIBLE AS THE ATTACK ITSELF HAS BEEN THE GLOBAL RESPONSE.

ASIDE FROM SOME PERFUNCTORY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AID, THE GREAT POWERS HAVE AN EXCLUSIVELY DUMPED THE BURDEN OF ASSISTANCE ON THE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THOSE I'VE FOUNDED: THE X-MEN AND X-GEN.

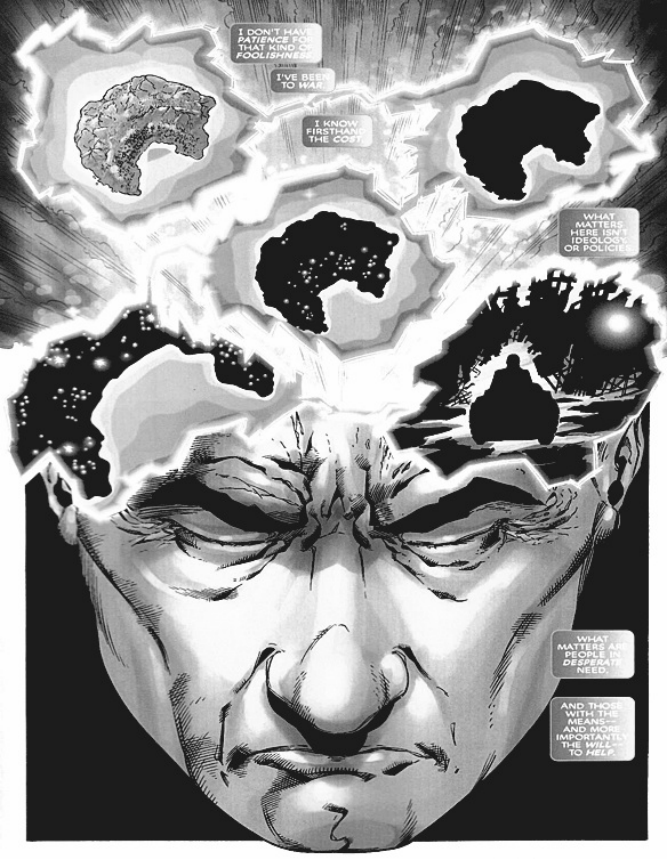
THEY'RE FAR MORE WORRIED ABOUT A TERRORIST RESPONSE FROM ANY SURVIVORS.

THOSE CONCERNS HAVE LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GORDON SANTANA AROUND THE ISLAND.

IN EFFECT, GENOSHA IS UNDER QUARANTINE.

GETTING IN IS HARD.

GETTING OUT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.



I DON'T HAVE
PATIENCE FOR
THAT KIND OF
FOOLISHNESS.

I'VE BEEN
TO WAR.

I KNOW
FIRSTHAND
THE COST.

WHAT
MATTERS
HERE ISN'T
IDEOLOGY
OR POLICIES.

WHAT
MATTERS ARE
PEOPLE IN
DESPERATE
NEED.

AND THOSE
WITH THE
MEANS—
AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY
THE WILL—
TO HELP.

OH!

THAT SO
TOTALLY--
HURTS!



HUBRIS, THY
NAME IS
"CHARLEY".

BEEN AN AGE
SINCE I'VE TRIED
ANYTHING LIKE
THIS SOLO.



MY TELEPATHY'S GROWN
TOO SOFT, TOO
DEPENDENT ON DEVICES
LIKE CEREBRA TO AMPLIFY
MY NATURAL POWER.



I DON'T
LIKE
LIMITS.

AND IN
THIS PLACE,
I CAN'T
AFFORD
THEM.



MY
NICKNAME IN
COMBAT WAS
THE "GOOD
SHEPHERD".

THE
"BOOK" ON
ME WENT
LIKE THIS--IF
YOU WERE
LOST...



...I'D
FIND YOU,
AND BRING
YOU HOME
SAFE.

AFTER A
LIFETIME, THAT
HASN'T REALLY
CHANGED.





INSTEAD
OF
TROOPERS
BEHIND
ENEMY
LINES...



I
LOOKED
FOR
YOUNG
MUTANTS.



OUR ABILITIES
GENERALLY
MANIFEST
DURING
ADOLESCENCE.

WHICH MAKES AN
ALREADY TRAUMATIC
SEASON IN OUR
LIVES EVEN MORE
HAIR-RAISING.

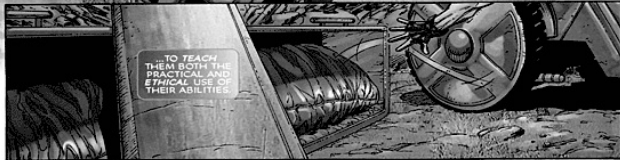
FOR SOME OF US,
WHOSE POWERS
DIRECTLY AFFECT THE
MATERIAL WORLD...



...THIS
TRANSITION
IS ACTIVELY
DANGEROUS.



THESE
CHILDREN
NEEDED
SOMEONE
TO HELP
THEM
THROUGH
THE
PROCESS...



...TO TEACH
THEM BOTH THE
PRACTICAL AND
ETHICAL USE OF
THEIR ABILITIES.



THERE REALLY HAS TO
BE A BETTER WAY.

POOR WEE
BUNNY...

...THERE'S
NEVER A
TELEKINE
AROUND WHEN
Y' REALLY
NEED ONE.

SHOW SOME RESPECT, IF YOU
PLEASE, TO THE GREATEST MUTANT
MENTALITY ON THE PLANET.

WHATEVER.

AREN'T
YOU
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
GHOST?

FAIRLY
LOADED
QUESTION IN
THIS PLACE.
CHARLEY.

GENOSHA
HAS GHOSTS
T' SPARE.

NO OFFENSE, BUT
MOIRA MCTAGGART
SHOULDN'T BE ONE
OF THEM.

YOU
DIED
HALF A
WORLD
AWAY
FROM
HERE.

I GUESS THAT MAKES ME
A FIGMENT OF YOUR
IMAGINATION.

THE WAY
YOU SEE ME
IS THE WAY YOU
REMEMBER
ME BEST.

FROM WHEN
WE WERE YOUNG
AN' IN LOVE...

...AN' OUR
WORLD WAS
RICH W/TH
POSSIBILITIES.



THIS
ISN'T HOW
I THOUGHT
THINGS WOULD
TURN OUT.

WELCOME
T' THE
CLUB.

D'YOU THINK
THIS IS A
MISTAKE?



ABANDONING
MY STUDENTS.
MY SCHOOL, THE
X-MEN--?

I THINK AFTER
ALL THAT'S
HAPPENED.

Y' BOTH
NEED
TIME T' HEAL.



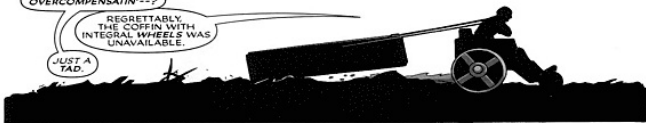
THEY NEED T'
LEARN T' TRULY
GET ALONG
WI'OUT YOU.

AN' YOU--
EVEN MORE--
NEED T' LEARN.
T' PROVE THE
SAME.

'COURSE Y' COULD BE
OVERCOMPENSATIN'--?

REGRETTABLY,
THE COFFIN WITH
INTEGRAL WHEELS WAS
UNAVAILABLE.

JUST A
TAD.







WHAT'S
SO FUNNY,
CHARLEY?



UNUS NEVER
COULD KEEP HIS
THOUGHTS TO
HIMSELF.



"UNTOUCHABLE,"
PERHAPS.
UNDETECTABLE,
ALMOST NEVER.



KRUNK!



OW!



CHARLEY,
WHY ARE
Y' DOIN'
THIS?



YOU'RE A
PROJECTION OF
MY SUPER-EGO,
REMEMBER?



YOU
ALREADY
KNOW THE
ANSWER.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT
CASSANDRA NOVA.

IT'S THE SURGE
IN MUTANT
MANIFESTATIONS
WE'VE SEEN THIS
PAST YEAR.



ALL OUR PROJECTIONS
SUGGESTED A GRADUAL
EVOLUTION IN THE
HUMAN GENOME.
CHARLEY.



WE WERE
WRONG,
MOIRA.

I DON'T
LIKE BEING
WRONG.

WHA! UNUS
SAID ABOUT
"PENANCE"? THAS'
TOTAL
BOLLOCKS!

THIS
WASN'T YUIR
FAULT.

MAKES Y' FEEL HUMAN, DOES IT, MY SON?





POPULAR BELIEF, AND RECENT EVENTS TO THE CONTRARY, THERE'S REALLY VERY LITTLE THAT HAPPENS AROUND ME THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

I AM...

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

WHERE ARE THE X-MEN?





YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE OUTSIDE
AFTER DARK.

AND YOU'LL
SURE NEVER GET
ANYWHERE
WITHOUT 'EM!

DON'T WORRY, THEY
WON'T HURT YOU.

I KNOW,
YOU'RE
NOT THE
TYPE.

WHAT'S
THAT
S'POSED T'
MEAN?!

MERELY
THAT YOU
POSSESS, ALONG
WITH COURAGE
AND STYLE, A
SENSE OF
HONOR.

YOU'RE
NOT THE
TYPE WHO
WOULD ATTACK
A LONE
STRANGER...

...ESPECIALLY
ONE WHO COMES
IN PEACE.

UNLIKE
SOME
I MIGHT
NAME.

GOT
THAT
STRAIGHT,
BALDY!

RIP
HIM UP,
BOYS.

LEAVE HIM
NAKED AS THE
DAY HE WAS
BORN!







UTTERLY
HARD-
CORE!

ACTUALLY,
NOT EVEN
CLOSE.



I'M
REALLY
SORRY. I
COULDN'T
THINK OF
WHAT ELSE
TO DO.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



UNUS'S NAME
DESCRIBES HIS
POWER QUITE
COMPLETELY. HE
IS PROTECTED
BY A PERSONAL
FORCE FIELD.

THIS EXPERIENCE
MAY PROVE SOMEWHAT...
DISQUIETING ...



...BUT HE'LL
EMERGE
PHYSICALLY
UNHARMED.

AND SINCE HE
POSSESSES RELATIVELY
NORMAL PHYSICAL
STRENGTH, ALL HE CAN
DO IN RETURN...

...IS
CAUSE
A BIT OF
A TUMMY
ACHE.



I JUST WISH HE'D
STOP WIGGLING!

I'LL
HELP YOU
COPE WITH
THAT.

BUT
I'M AFRAID
YOU'LL BE
STUCK AT THIS
SIZE FOR THE
DURATION.



PIECE OF
TOE-CHEESE
HAD IT
COMING.

WELL, ONE
CAN ALWAYS
HOPE HE'LL
PROFIT FROM THE
EXPERIENCE.



BUT
KNOWING
UNUS, I
DOUBT IT.

WHY ARE
YOU HERE,
PROFESSOR?

I'M A TEACHER.
FREAKSHOW.

YEAH, RIGHT.
AND WHAT, THE
X-MEN WERE
YOUR OUTREACH
PROGRAM?

YOU GOTTA
BE
KIDDING!

ABOUT
MY WORK,
NEVER.

THANK YOU
BOTH FOR YOUR
ASSISTANCE.

SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT.

COME
BACK IN
THE
MORNING,
WE CAN
START
LESSONS.



YOU'VE
MADE THIS
DAY MUCH...
EASIER.

USED
TELEPATHY,
DID YOU,
TO GET YOUR
OWN WAY?

THEY'RE BOTH EXHAUSTED.
I MERELY MADE THE
THOUGHT OF BED...
...IRRESISTIBLE.



YOU'RE LATE.

THESE DAYS, WHAT WITH ALL
THAT'S HAPPENED...

NICE
OF YOU TO
MEET ME.

AND TO
HELP.





Next:
With
a
Little
Help
from
my

FRIENDS!

SWORD STROKES



EXCALIBUR #2 IN JUST ONE SHORT MONTH!

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MAY 2004 X-MEN RELOAD BEGINS!

ON SALE 5/5

UNCANNY X-MEN #444: Chris Claremont and Alan Davis return to the book that started it all!

EXILES #46: Debuting the new team of Tony Bedard and Mizuki Sakakibara!

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE: X-MEN 2004: The comprehensive guide to X-Men: ReLoad. Because you demanded it!

ALPHA FLIGHT #3: Hijinx ensue! By Scott Lobdell and Clayton Henry.

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MYSTIQUE #14: Sean McKeever! Manuel Garcia! ReLoad Madness!

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EMMA FROST #11: Emma's trapped by the mob! Who will save her?

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X-MEN #157: Chuck Austen and Salvador Larroca ReLoad X-Men!

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MYSTIQUE #15: Mystique vs. a killer mutant duo!

WEAPON X #24: Part 2 of an action-packed ReLoad adventure!

NEXT ISSUE:

**GUESS WHO'S
JOINING
PROFESSOR X
AND MAGNETO
ON GENOSHA?**



Be

Sr

Digital Comic

A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of two soldiers in a trench. The soldier on the right is in the foreground, holding a rifle. The soldier on the left is slightly behind. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky. The text 'he' is overlaid on the left soldier, 'moth' on the right soldier, and 'c Preservation' at the bottom.

he

moth

c Preservation